

Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment Template (Landscape Version)

Child Safeguarding Statement

[Insert school name] is a primary/special/post-primary school providing primary/post-primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class/First Year to Leaving Certificate Year (delete as appropriate).

In accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023) and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements, the Board of Management of [insert school name] has agreed the Child Safeguarding Statement set out in this document.

1 The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* as part of this overall Child Safeguarding Statement

2 The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is

Tara D'Arcy

3 The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is

Phil Cheetham

4 The Relevant Person is

(The relevant person is one who can provide information in respect of how the child safeguarding statement was developed and will be able to provide the statement on request. In a school setting the relevant person shall be the DLP.)

5 The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;

- develop a practice of openness with parents and encourage parental involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

6 The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in Chapter 7 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)* and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016 and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the gov.ie website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school's Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to Tusla, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.
- In accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019), the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school's procedures for managing those risks is included with the Child Safeguarding Statement.

- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school's website, the gov.ie website or will be made available on request by the school.

Note: The above is not intended as an exhaustive list. Individual Boards of Management shall also include in this section such other procedures/measures that are of relevance to the school in question.

7 This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, the Parents' Association (if any) and the patron. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department if requested.

8 This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This Child Safeguarding Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on 26/9/23 [date].

This Child Safeguarding Statement was reviewed by the Board of Management on 26/9/23 [most recent review date].

Signed: Nice O'Donnell
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Tara D'Arcy
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 27/10/23

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In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*, the following is the Written Risk Assessment of Greystones CNS

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of "harm" as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023)*

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground	Arrival and dismissal supervised by school staff. Children are never released to people we do not know. Parents must call /email to arrange a different person to collect.
Teacher Parking	Low	Cars rolling from spots while children are in the car park. Teachers leaving the car park while children are present e.g. reversing out	Staff only allowed to use staff carpark. Carpark blocked off from other users
Hot Drinks	Med	Hot drinks in unsealed containers	Teachers are reminded to not carry hot liquids around the school site while the children are present. Hot drinks in classrooms must be in properly sealed containers.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury to pupils and staff	School supplies appropriate sealed containers Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy & Procedures in place. Regular Coaches are vetted with KWETB. Class teacher remains with class at all times when external coaches/teachers are with class.
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Injury to pupils	Small Break (15 minutes) - Big Break (25 minutes) - Anti-Bullying Policy Supervision Policy - Flight Risks wear High-Vis jackets as necessary

Written Assessment of Risk of Greystones CMA

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			Supervision Policy – Flight Risks wear High-Vis jackets as necessary Code of Behaviour
Classroom teaching	Low	Potential harm to pupil(s) and/or teacher.	Code of Behaviour Policy Supervision Policy In-Class Behaviour systems. Child Safeguarding Statement SNA Policy
One-to-one teaching	Medium	As above. One to one can likely involve children with EBD.	As above PLUS: SEN Policy (glass panel in door) 2 adults present with child with EBD
Outdoor teaching activities	Low	Courts on site and enclosed.	Code of Behaviour Policy In-Class Behaviour systems. Child Protection Policy. SET Policy SNA Policy.
Sporting Activities	High	As above. Also: Risk of encounter with stranger(s), e.g., at sporting fixtures or during on-site activities hosted by non-staff. Risk of negative interaction with external coaches. Risk of accident in high-contact sports, e.g., ball games.	As above. Also: Supervision Policy Class teacher always present with external coach
After School Clubs	Low	Harm to Pupils.	Teachers/SNAs only take GCNS After School clubs.
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School outings	Med	See Sporting Activities.	Access to updated contact lists (parents). First aid kit to accompany children on tour(s). Emergency Medication (EG EpiPen) to accompany children on tour. 2 nd adult at least on all outings – Risk Assessment by staff member of destination in advance of trip. NA
School trips involving overnight stay		NA	NA
School trips involving foreign travel		NA	NA
Use of toilet in schools at playtime	Low	Children need to return to playtime toilets during outside playtimes	Infant Children are brought to the toilet by a supervising adult. Senior children monitored by yard duty staff
Annual Sports Day		See 'Sporting Activities' and 'School Outings'.	
Fundraising events involving pupils	Low	Held In school only	School policies
Pupils walking around inside school building	Medium	Risk of harm. Risk of encountering strangers.	Supervision Policy. Children 3 rd -6 th can walk around the building in 2s. Ji-2 nd must be accompanied by a staff member barring exceptional circumstances.
Use of off-site facilities for school activities		See 'Sporting Activities' and 'School Outings'.	
School transport arrangements including use of bus escorts	Low	Harm to Pupil	Staff vetted and trained by school.
List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment

Care of any vulnerable students, including intimate care where needed	Med	Injury or harm during school day.	Supervision Policy (e.g., Garda Vetting) SNA Policy (re. number of adults accompanying children.) Anti-Bullying Policy (re. Emotional support) SPHE Toileting Policy – where possible 2 adults to supervise any child with toileting care needs
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils	High	Injury/harm to pupil(s) and/or teacher.	Code of Behaviour Policy. Supervision Policy Individual Behaviour Plans. SNA Policy. Child Protection Policy.
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	High	Risk of lack of knowledge of a child's condition/illness by adult attending to child. Risk of injury harm as an outcome of insufficient/inadequate care. Out of date medication.	Admin of Medicine Policy (e.g., location of medicines). Care Plans for pupils with emergency medication. All medication bagged separately and labelled. Audit of expiry dates by secretary. Staff Training – All SNAs First Aid trained Ongoing review of Student Care Plans. Allergy Policy Medication dates checked termly and updated
Curricular provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe	Low	Risk of teachers not fully implementing programme as intended (e.g., omission, lack of sensitivity, etc.)	SPHE School Plan (RSE, etc.) RSE Policy Staff sign-off (Stay Safe)
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Risk of children being bullied (physical and emotional).	Anti-bullying Policy. Code of Behaviour In-class systems for behaviour. SPHE policies and plans (see above).
Training of school personnel in child protection matters	Low	Risk of staff not attending, participating fully or complying with training and its implications.	Child Protection Policy and training. Child Protection Case Studies discussed at staff meetings.

Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	High	See 'Sporting Activities' and 'School Outings'	Supervision Policy
List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants Members of the Traveller community Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children Pupils perceived to be LGBT Pupils of minority religious faiths Children in care Children on CPNS 	High	Risk of emotional/physical harm.	Child Safeguarding Statement Anti-bullying Policy GMGY Program SPHE, RSE Plans and Policies Equality Policy Recruitment processes and procedures.
Recruitment of school personnel including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers SNA's Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners Sports coaches External Tutors/Guest Speakers Volunteers/Parents in school activities Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours Visitors/contractors present during after school activities 	High	Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported	Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff Staff to view Tusla training module & any other online training offered by PDST Vetting Procedures – References checked Supervision Policy

Use of school premises by other organisation during school day	Low	Kids Inc are our on site childcare from 125-225 – all of their staff are vetted and that vetting is shared with us.	Seeks vetting for all Kids Inc Staff Members
List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school (including Remote Online Learning)	Med	Bullying Access to inappropriate content.	Anti-Bullying Policy Code of Behaviour Filtered Broadband provided by PDST Acceptable Usage Policy
		Access of inappropriate content whilst engaged in Remote Learning	All remote learning happens via the Seesaw software which is completely teacher led with all content provided by said teacher. This software is also secure from external access.
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including Suspensions.	High	Risk of parent backlash (e.g., parents being unfair to teacher). Risk of other children exposed to bad behaviour (emotional impact). Risk of school's policies being inadequate for addressing/responding to incident. Risk of parents being unaware of escalation of poor behaviour and school's code (sanctions, etc.)	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy Communications Policy (Email & Seesaw)
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school		See Page 1.	Vetting provided by Teacher Training College Class Teacher present with the class at all times
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	See 'Use of ICT'. Also:	See 'Use of ICT'. Also: Acceptable Use Policies Consent Forms

		Risk that students without photo consent have photos published by GCNS Risk of third-party publishing of school photos (e.g., sharing).	
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Low	All children attending are signed up by their own parents	Parents have been advised to check vetting of any after school providers not provided by the school.
Changing for swimming lessons.	Med	Risk of harm to children. Risk of encountering strangers.	Class Teacher and 2 nd adult to attend. Use of private cubicles for boys supervised by staff member. Group changing room for girls, supervised by female staff member.

Hazards	Is the hazard present ? Y/N	What is the risk?	Risk rating H=High M=Medium L=Low	Controls (When all controls are in place risk will be reduced)	Is this control in place?	Action/to do list/outstanding controls	Person responsible	Signature and date when action completed
<p>* Risk rating applies to outstanding controls outlined in this column</p>								
COVID-19	N	Illness	H	Following Public Health Guidance as issued by HSE /DES		Follow public health guidance from HSE re hygiene and respiratory etiquette Staff adhering to mandated isolation periods Staggered drop off/pick up/playtimes implemented Ensure adequate supplies of hand sanitiser & Classes cleaned daily	RK	

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In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

